

Testimony, House Health Policy Committee, HB 5439, 1-31-18

Mark Reinstein, Mental Health Assn. in Mich.

Rep. Vaupel & Members of the Committee,

I'm Mark Reinstein, President & CEO of the Mental Health Association in Michigan, the state's oldest advocacy organization for persons experiencing mental illness.

I commend Rep. Whiteford for introducing HB 5439, which we support, and I appreciate the related work of the House CARES Task Force.

HB 5439 won't solve all the problems we face in getting psychiatric inpatient care to those who need it, but the bill is a step in the right direction.

I offer four modest, friendly amendments to the bill for your consideration.

1. Sec. 151(4), first sentence, after the second reference to "psychiatric beds" insert: ", including which beds are publicly contracted," *If we are going to have a statewide psychiatric bed registry, it would be helpful to know how many beds are available under contract between community or private hospitals and the public mental health system. This won't guarantee our constituents automatically being accepted in all cases, but it would be helpful to know where contracted beds with the public mental health system exist.*

2. Sec. 151(5), after "Community Mental Health Services Programs" insert: "Medicaid Health Plans, other department-contracted mental health service managers," *The concept here is that the state intends to pilot, in up to three communities, behavioral service management by Medicaid Health Plans. Thus, it won't hurt, and can only help, to have Medicaid Health Plans included among the list within this subsection.*

3. Same section, last line, strike "and" before "employees" and then after "appropriate providers" insert: ", and consumer, family, and advocacy organizations."

4. Sec. 151(6), insert after "registry" in last line: ", as well as representatives of consumer, family, and advocacy organizations."

*For #s 3 & 4, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that the registry would exist for the benefit of consumers and families, so we need to empower them to be part of the process and information sharing here. It would be to everyone's benefit if consumers and families, as well as advocacy organizations representing them, were included in subsections 151(5) & 151(6).*

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our views.